MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) and (2) The answer to each question is in the negative.

Records in the Chief Engineer's Office.

283. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many of the files in the Chief Engineer's office are missing?

(*b*) If so, who is the officer responsible?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to institute an urgent inquiry into the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), these questions do not arise.

Workshop Committee's Report.

284. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have passed any order on the Workshop Committee's report; if not, what is the reason for such a long delay?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Orders have been passed and are under issue.

Appointment of Dr. Noble on the Administrative Board, Medical Services.

285. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state what induced them to appoint Dr. Noble as a member of the Administrative Board, Medical Services?

(2) Was it because no competent Travancorean was found in the medical service of the State that Dr. Noble was chosen?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) The Government considered Dr. Noble to be well-suited for such a part-time appointment.

(2) No.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know why a foreigner is preferred for the post while the Government admit that there are competent persons in the medical service in the State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is given there. Government considered Dr. Noble to be well-suited and they selected him. The selection is left to the discretion of the Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether he had any additional qualifications which made him well-suited for the post?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): He has the necessary qualifications for the post.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My question is whether he had any *additional* qualifications.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): My answer is that he has the *necessary* qualification.

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